

Our outward life requires them not—
Then, wherefore had they birth?
To minister delight to man,
To beautify the earth.
To comfort man, to whisper hope,
When his faith is dim,
For who so careth for the flowers
Will much more care for him.
—Macy Hunt.

SPINACH.
Spinach reaches maturity quickly, in six to eight weeks, and a small plot will supply the family table over a long period.

Now in drills one foot apart and one inch deep as early as the ground can be worked, and every two weeks for a succession. For winter and early spring use sow the last of August or first of September in well enriched ground; the soil cannot be too rich, cover with straw on the approach of severe weather.

Rapid growth is desirable to obtain large, succulent leaves, and a good, rich loam is necessary for this purpose.

The young plants should be thinned out to stand six or seven inches apart. Give light applications of nitrate of soda or liquid manure every ten days. Pick the leaves as needed.

Victoria spinach is of good texture, with heavily crimped, thick, fleshy leaves with a deep red stem. Long Season is best for late planting, as it stands warm weather better than any other variety.

New Zealand spinach really is not a member of the spinach family, but is a most excellent substitute for greens during the hot summer months, and it is different in form and habit, requiring more room to develop, as it makes a large spreading plant, otherwise the treatment should be the same as for spinach.

ANNUALS.
Good Trench Annuals.

Calliopsis, candytuft, cornflowers, California poppy, godetia, Swan river daisy, mignonette, nigella, Shirley poppies, double larkspur.

Annuals for Shade.
Asperula or blue Woodruff, marigold, Clarkia, gypsophila, lupinus, lavatera, stocks, dwarf godetia.

Annuals for Bedding.
Nemesia hybrids, Nemophila Holborn bluebell or insignis, Saponaria calabrica or vacaria, Aretia grandis or African daisy, brachycoma or Swan river daisy, dwarf clarkia, Glia compacta, Malcolmia maritima or Virginia stocks, pansies, alyssum, asperula.

Annuals for Borders.
Godetia, Centaurea imperialis, clarkia, battonia, gypsophila.

Flowers for Dry, Sunny Gardens.
Shirley, French and Iceland poppies, cornflowers, anemones, nasturtiums, verbenas, calendula, scabiosa, Linum grandiflorum, candytuft, salpiglossis, Agrostis nebulosa, viscaria, portulaca, and escholtzia are all suitable for hot, dry locations where many other plants would fail.

Flowers for Dusty Locations.
Constant travel along dry roads keeps the dust flying, and gardeners having dusty locations to contend with will find that fuchsias and tuberosas begonias will withstand dust better than most plants. Abutilons, anemones and nasturtiums are also good. Columbine and penstemon seem to be the best perennials. Sprinkle the plants as often as possible in the evening.

Dividing Aspidistras.
Aspidistras that are crowded in the pots can be divided and repotted at this season. Knock the pot so the ball of earth will drop out upon the hand and then carefully wash away all the earth from the roots. With a sharp knife divide the roots so that each division of the root will have one or more leaves, and at least one leaf of each division should have a new leaf bud at the base of the leaf.

Use new pots or old pots that have been thoroughly washed and dried for two weeks or more. Use good, rich loam, one-sixth part silver sand and one-sixth finely powdered charcoal, thoroughly mixed. Use pieces of broken pots in the bottom of the pot for drainage and set the divisions so the crowns at the base of the leaves are buried about an inch below the top of the soil. Firm the soil gently as it is filled, and water thoroughly as soon as potted. Keep in the shade a week and provide stakes to keep the leaves from falling over.

If it is desired to keep large plants intact, repot into a larger pot, using most of the old ball of earth, filling in with new soil of the mixture advised for divisions.

Shirley Poppies.
For Shirley poppies the bed should be dug at least eighteen inches deep, first giving a very heavy coating of manure, incorporating this with the soil in digging. The top four inches should be made as light and fine as possible. Let the bed settle and then rake it over evenly and sow the seeds broadcast, first mixing them with about six or seven times their bulk of fine sand to insure a thin and even sowing. When the plants come up thin out until they stand seven inches apart.

Mulch for Magnolias, Rhododendrons and Kalmias.
Lime, ashes and animal matter in any considerable quantities are injurious to magnolias. Decayed vegetable matter, such as leaves and bark, form a good mulch for magnolias during the summer and winter. This should be turned under in the spring and a

like the Magnolia grandiflora before its prolonged life is insured. The best form of protection I have found to be a wire tree guard, such as are sold by hardware dealers, and after December to put inside the guard some small evergreens, so abundant in every village and town at the Christmas season.

The evergreens must not be removed until the apple trees are in blossom, for if removed prematurely the March winds and April blizzards will be a menace.

When well grown the tree can take care of itself, but it is well to plant it near the house, where it will be protected from the north, or trained espalier fashion against a wall. There is an evergreen type called the loblolly bay that is said to be hardy as far north as Virginia and that if cut down by hard weather it springs up from the root, forming a flowering shrub of great beauty.

Both of these trees are planted largely in England, and why they are so rare in our own country must be owing to this need of early protection, but it is quite worth while to meet this demand and the reward is sure. The tree is sometimes called Franklinia, as it was discovered by Bartram, the botanist, 150 years ago and named in honor of his friend Benjamin Franklin. Afterward the tree was taken to Scotland by a Dr. Gordon, whose name it now bears.

PEA SUPPORTS.
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Although this experiment in hand fertilization was not a complete success it was valuable, as it added a new and desirable vegetable to our garden. "Summer asparagus" is not an asparagus at all but a charming variety of summer squash. Cut-and-come-again is another name that bears witness to its value in a small garden.

The seeds came from a garden in Vermont where summer asparagus has been grown successfully several seasons from seed bought of the Rochester, N. Y., seedsmen who originated the strain.

The six seeds planted the 3d of June last germinated, but cutworms took their toll of all but one plant. This blossomed freely, bearing staminate flowers until the end of August, when one pistillate blossom appeared, the only flower on the vine that day.

A week or ten days later two more pistillate flowers appeared, and fortunately several staminate ones opened that morning. For some reason the bees were busy elsewhere, so I performed their duties, transferring a liberal supply of pollen, using for the purpose a small stick, although I have since learned that a little camel's hair brush is better.

When the blossoms dropped, each little knob remained on its stem. Within a few days one blighted, while the other lengthened into a green and gold club eight inches long with its thickest part two and one-quarter inches in diameter. It had grown through the mid autumn days until October 28, when its stem was so thick and green, but evidently it would have kept on growing if protected by a frame on frosty nights, but a borer cut the stem so badly that its career was ended—Grace F. Andrews, Massachusetts.

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By CHARLES A. GREEN.
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STARTING SMALL FRUIT CULTURE.
By CHARLES A. GREEN.
For those starting in fruit culture for profit I would say, Go slow at first. Do not try to start out on too large a scale until you have gained some knowledge of the business, which can best be accomplished by experience of your own. No fruit will give quicker returns than the strawberry, or will come earlier in the season. It brings money at a time of the year when most needed. I think the strawberry more profitable on the same amount of ground than any other small fruit. A suitable location is very essential for the berry patch. An elevated site is best, with an eastern slope preferable. The fruit is not apt to be injured there by late frosts. Varieties should be selected that are best adapted to the soil. This knowledge perhaps can be gained by trial and tested varieties that are desirable for your locality. Of course this applies to other fruit as well as strawberries. Also plant some raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and grapes, which will give a continuation of crops. If you have a good market close by you can realize more for your berries in the home market than you can to ship them to distant markets. I would not ship unless I had more berries than the home market demands.

In setting out a field of ten acres to small fruit it would be well to set five of it to strawberries, three to black and red raspberries and the remainder to gooseberries, currants and grapes. In shipping make arrangements with some reliable dealer to handle the berries who will pay for them as he gets them. Also secure regular customers for the home market. This will not only a handsome income from the beginning to the end of the fruiting season, I feel safe in saying that if the soil is given the proper attention in fertilizing and cultivation

like the Magnolia grandiflora before its prolonged life is insured. The best form of protection I have found to be a wire tree guard, such as are sold by hardware dealers, and after December to put inside the guard some small evergreens, so abundant in every village and town at the Christmas season.

The evergreens must not be removed until the apple trees are in blossom, for if removed prematurely the March winds and April blizzards will be a menace.

When well grown the tree can take care of itself, but it is well to plant it near the house, where it will be protected from the north, or trained espalier fashion against a wall. There is an evergreen type called the loblolly bay that is said to be hardy as far north as Virginia and that if cut down by hard weather it springs up from the root, forming a flowering shrub of great beauty.

Both of these trees are planted largely in England, and why they are so rare in our own country must be owing to this need of early protection, but it is quite worth while to meet this demand and the reward is sure. The tree is sometimes called Franklinia, as it was discovered by Bartram, the botanist, 150 years ago and named in honor of his friend Benjamin Franklin. Afterward the tree was taken to Scotland by a Dr. Gordon, whose name it now bears.

PEA SUPPORTS.
At this season the question of supports for pea vines is a troublesome one with many gardeners. When it is to be had, brush is undoubtedly the best support, but with many brush cannot be had and a substitute must be used. Poultry netting becomes very hot from the sun's rays and burns the tendrils. An old tennis net stretched between posts along the rows of peas makes an excellent support.

Although this experiment in hand fertilization was not a complete success it was valuable, as it added a new and desirable vegetable to our garden. "Summer asparagus" is not an asparagus at all but a charming variety of summer squash. Cut-and-come-again is another name that bears witness to its value in a small garden.

The seeds came from a garden in Vermont where summer asparagus has been grown successfully several seasons from seed bought of the Rochester, N. Y., seedsmen who originated the strain.

The six seeds planted the 3d of June last germinated, but cutworms took their toll of all but one plant. This blossomed freely, bearing staminate flowers until the end of August, when one pistillate blossom appeared, the only flower on the vine that day.

A week or ten days later two more pistillate flowers appeared, and fortunately several staminate ones opened that morning. For some reason the bees were busy elsewhere, so I performed their duties, transferring a liberal supply of pollen, using for the purpose a small stick, although I have since learned that a little camel's hair brush is better.

When the blossoms dropped, each little knob remained on its stem. Within a few days one blighted, while the other lengthened into a green and gold club eight inches long with its thickest part two and one-quarter inches in diameter. It had grown through the mid autumn days until October 28, when its stem was so thick and green, but evidently it would have kept on growing if protected by a frame on frosty